

SUBURBAN SPRAWL

Living with Wildlife, Activity 7

DETAILS



**Anywhere
with Internet**



**15-45
Minutes**



Individual



Logic

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Cities are designed in many different ways. Sometimes every road and building is pre-planned with names in a specific order and addresses that all look similar to each other. Other times people build little pieces of a city at a time and blend neighborhoods with existing rural or open green spaces where there aren't a lot of humans.

In Seattle, there are areas that have a lot of warehouses, there are areas with many homes in a neighborhoods, and a downtown area. Some of these places have very orderly streets that are numbered while some are more curving and unexpected. Also, as you get farther away from the city, homes get farther and farther apart. The areas of a city that are in the expanding area is considered suburban sprawl.

In this activity, we are going to reflect on where we live and create an imaginary city that humans and wildlife would both like to live.

HOW-TO

1. Think about your neighborhood (5 minutes)

Think about your neighborhood. Can you walk to your school, a grocery store, a park, a community center, a bus stop, or a friend's house?

2. Learn more about your neighborhood (5 minutes)

Depending on how easy it is to walk to different areas, it is easier to not drive and help the environment. Visit <https://www.walkscore.com/> and type "Seattle, WA" into the search bar. See how Seattle scores. How does your neighborhood score?

3. Reflect on your city (5 minutes)

Does it feel like all of sudden you are in farmland or a green space? What do the different parks in Seattle look like? Is there one close to you? Is there one close to your school? Do you think wildlife can move through Seattle safely? What may they need?

4. Design a city (10-20 minutes)

How do you think we impact the environment when we live really close together? What about farther apart? Imagine a city that is beneficial for both humans and animals. Draw out your imagined city and share it with a family member or friend!

MATERIALS

- Computer/Smart Phone/Tablet
- Pencil/Pen/Crayons/Markers
- Paper



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FOLLOW-UP QUESTIONS

- What are your 3 favorite things in your city?
- What would make humans happy in your city?
- What would make wildlife happy in your city?